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WASHINGTON POST
20 May 1986

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Casey Rebuts Senators' Remarks

CIA Director William J. Casey, responding to remarks by the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, issued a statement yesterday asserting, "It is not true that I have ever participated in any attack on the [congressional] oversight process."

Casey cited remarks by Sen. David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) published in a Washington Post article yesterday. The senators suggested that the recent reports over leaks of classified information reflected a general attempt by the Reagan administration to curtail the congressional oversight process, where there has been criticism of Central Intelligence Agency covert Third World operations.

Casey said that his only concern is protecting classified information and added, "I have reason to believe that other members of the [intelligence] committee share my concern."